

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes May 12, 2016 7:00pm BOS meeting room

Present: MEMBERS: Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Andy Hughes, V Chair; Hub Seward, Janet Urquhart, Kim Rimalover. Andy Seale, excused.

ALTERNATES: Rodney Dellafelice, Greg Boggis, Eric Radloff, Chris Costantino

Approval of April Meeting Minutes The April Minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by AndyH, seconded by Eric

Appointments –

7:15 –Red Oak Apartments on Capron Road. Patrick Colburn of Keach Nordstrom presented the Red Oak Apartments project that is now called The Ridge at Eastern Trails. There will be 3 wetland crossings. WC 1 is for utilities to come in from Nashua Street. This will be a temporary impact. WC 2 and 3 are for driveway crossings which the applicant has placed in the narrowest sections of the wetlands. The applicant, at the request of the commission members who attended the site visit on May 3, has agreed to upsize the 36” culverts with 48” culverts which will be set into the wetland bottom to create a natural surface for water and wildlife movement. The applicant has agreed to set a “No Cut” demarcation on the plan. They will remove the minimum of trees that are needed to achieve the grade necessary and retain as many trees as possible for buffer from the highway. The applicant will update the Minimum Impact Expedited Wetland Permit application after the May Planning Board Meeting. Greg made a motion to approve the MIE Wetland Permit application. Eric seconded the motion and the members unanimously approved the motion. Greg and Eric were delegated as full members tonight to fill 2 vacancies.

7:45 – Mudhaws ATV club. Jeremy Hutchinson and several other members of the NH Mudhaws ATV Club introduced themselves as a registered club and asked for permission to open up the trails at Mile Slip Town Forest. They have been actively working on hiking and snowmobile trail maintenance with other trail organizations in the surrounding towns. They said that they have permission from some of the abutting land owners for the riders to use their land compiling about 5 miles of trail to ride.

Other speakers: Liam Herly, Mile Slip Rd, spoke in favor of the club opening and managing the trails at Mile Slip.

Steven Cluty, Androscoggin ATV Club, gave information about the state funding of trail work and the grant process to request funds.

Todd Szewczyk, NH F&G Conservation Officer, spoke about the potential problems that we may see as a result of the riders opening the trails.

Buddy Dougherty, Brookline CC member, sees numerous infractions by the OHRV riders near and around his house. He stated that Brookline CC will not be allowing ATV riders on their conservation land which is near Mile Slip. He contradicted the Mudhaws, stating that the Wilton Wanderers Snowmobile Club will not be giving permission to the Mudhaws to use the trails that the WW Snowmobile Club uses.

Audrey stated 1) that we are working on a management plan to reestablish an early successional habitat around the parking area, 2) that we are in the process of obtaining a conservation easement for the town forest and 3) that we would need to see a trail map. All of these will require ongoing discussion between the commission and the atv club and may restrict the riding at the town forest to a point where it isn't worth the effort to open the property to atv riding.

8:15 – Dan Reed of New England Forestry Consultants. See below #3 Hitchiner Town Forest Timber Harvest

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. 4 th Saturday hike	a. April Hike at Rail Trail – 2 women attended. We walked the Universe Trail and called it a day. b. May 28 hike – Rotch TF AndyH will lead	

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes May 12, 2016 7:00pm BOS meeting room

2. Easements at town forests	Mile Slip TF and Hitchiner TF. Audrey has tweaked an easement from NEFF which she gave to Andy so that he can use the same document for the Hitchiner easement	Audrey and AndyH will work on the documents together and have a draft for the commission to review in June.
3. Potential timber harvest at Hitchiner TF	The commission walked the area proposed to be cut with Matt Tarr, UNH Cooperative Ext wildlife biologist and Dan Reed, NE Forestry Consultants, Professional Forester on May 9. Matt identified some unique qualities of the habitat on the knolls and agreed with Dan Reed that doing nothing is not a bad idea. There is a full report of the site walk in the files. The commission decided, after much discussion, that we would not cut the timber at this time. Paul Amato, who is an abutter to the west and offered access to his skid trails and landing, was present during the discussion. He offered to do a wildlife opening on his property if the site is appropriate. Dan Reed will talk to Paul Amato's logger and has permission to walk Paul's property.	Dan Reed will work with Paul Amato's logger to identify a possible location for a 5-10 acre wildlife opening on Paul's property. This will complement the fields that are at Hitchiner. Dan will submit an invoice for the hours he has worked. The commission will authorize it at the June meeting.
4. Mile Slip visit to discuss habitat management	Eric wrote a report of the site walk that commission members took in April. He and Matt Tarr identified land around the parking area to reestablish an early successional habitat. This approx'y 5 acres was previously cleared as part of predevelopment of the site and has grown in. We may need to hire heavy equipment to do an initial clearing, but volunteers should be able to keep up with the yearly maintenance in the future. After discussion, the members would like to re-create this early successional habitat.	Eric to get quotes to hire a "Bronto" to do an initial clearing of the area bounded by stone walls around the parking area.
5. Eversource Tree cutting at Union Street Rail Trail crossing	Acknowledgement that the activity will be done. The crew will leave the two large trees on the east and west side of the knoll where the commission hopes to place a picnic table someday.	
6. Interactive Trail Mapping – ArcGis Storymapper being done by volunteer	Lincoln and Chris met with Brett Shaver to learn about his ideas for an interactive trails map of Milford. Brett will continue to work on the website. Chris and Lincoln will provide support as requested.	
7. Hitchiner TF post repair	Vandals ripped one of the fence posts out of the ground at the entrance to the southern field at Hitchiner TF. AndyH put the post back. Chris called Brian Zahn, AlphaTractor, for assistance in resetting the post.	Chris will call Brian Zahn again
8. Keyes Field Expansion Committee report - Hub	Hub reported that there is a lot of research needed before the committee can make recommendations concerning the retention of the building or portion thereof and uses for the property at 129 Elm Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at town hall and other department space needs that could be met with this building or land The site has been altered to provide immediate parking and access to the Keyes Fields 	The commission to take a look and assess the site for potential trail connection.
9. Acceptance of donations in the name of Bill Kokko Sr	Bill Kokko, Sr was the first conservation commission chair, holding its first meeting in May 1968, 48 years ago. Bill asked that donations be directed to the conservation commission	Chris will mail the card and do the proper for the

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes May 12, 2016 7:00pm BOS meeting room

	(or the ambulance) in lieu of flowers. The commission, unanimously approved a motion by Janet, seconded by Hub, to accept the gifts totaling \$400.00. The members signed a sympathy card for Bill and Patty Kokko, Jr.	money to be accepted by the town.
10. Brox Gravel Removal	<p>Fred Elkind, Environmental Coordinator, attended the meeting in order to answer questions that might arise when the commission discussed Cabinet articles and emails concerning Brox and the BOS' actions to remove the gravel from the Community Lands.</p> <p>The members had questions about the methods used to protect the T&E species that have been observed at the property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there RSAs which protect the animals that are threatened or endangered? Not answered at the time • Will a new wetland delineation be done? – yes and completed • What would cause a change to the plans, as pertains to the presence of T&E species. No clear answer • Has there been an official inspection for the presence of T&E species on the property?. No • Why wasn't the NRI mentioned in the RFP or supplemental documentation? Not perceived to be essential by the BOS as the contractors are aware that T&E species have been observed on site. 	

End televised portion of the meeting

11. Interdepartmental review	Contemporary Auto Dealership – Hammond Rd. The commission discussed the site visit to Hammond Rd on May 10.	Chris to draft the ZBA and PB memos for Audrey to edit.
12. 2016 goals	Goals to be finalized and sent to Lincoln	
13. Conservation Plan update	Review of work session tabled until May 26 for a work session.	
14. Work session	May 26 at 6:30pm to discuss the Conservation Plan updates and the easements if available.	

Next Regular Meeting – March 10 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Meeting schedule for 2016: Jan 14; Feb 11; Mar 10; Apr 14; May 12; Jun 9; Jul 14; Aug 11; Sep 15; Oct 13' Nov 17; Dec 15

The order and matters of this meeting are subject to change without further notice.